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Company: CIA Diary
CIA 1.04 Agee, Philip

The Capital Has a Publishing and Bookselling World All Its Own

"We're in business to sell books, any books, not just American books," said a leading Washington bookseller recently. David Tenney, manager of Sidney Kramer Books, expressed amazement that as far as he knew no other bookstores in America were selling the English Penguin, "Inside the Company: CIA Diary," by former CIA agent Phillip Agee. "For a couple of days it was really a strange scene in the shop," Tenney said. "We procured 200 copies through our London distributor and sold out immediately. We sold copies to the White House, the Justice Department, the CIA. Some people sat down in the back shop and just read. They couldn't wait to see what Agee had written."

A Washington publisher is also taking advantage of the current interest in CIA affairs. He is William Buchanan, president of Carrollton Press, which has built up so much in recent years that it is moving soon from its small offices in Georgetown to modern office space across the Potomac in Arlington, Virginia. Buchanan, himself a former employee of the CIA, had some idea of the historic interest of documents that have been declassified in recent years. He sensed that there might be a library market for CIA, State and Defense department documents that were becoming available to the public. Recent amendments to the Freedom of Information Act spurred him on. He made arrangements with procurement officers in a number of agencies and hired Annadel Wile, who served as chief of CIA's indexing operations for 20 years before she retired. She trained a small staff to analyze and index a wide variety of documents previously classified "Top Secret, Confidential. . . ." They range from one-page telegrams to 1000-page background studies. Recently, Bill Buchanan was able to state that "after years of planning, frustration, and just plain writing, we are now able to announce the 'Declassified Documents Reference System'—a self-contained collection in which we identify, index, and make available on microfiche, those post-World War II documents which have been declassified under recent regulations. . . ."

✓ A couple of years ago, Acropolis Books launched another former CIA man on a new career as an author. He is Robert J. Myers, publisher of the *New Republic* since 1968. While vacationing at West River, Vermont, Bob began to think about the career of Richard M. Nixon, then in deep trouble. In his mind, he drew certain parallels with an earlier Richard and was moved to reread Shakespeare's play "Richard II." The result was a short satiric history of our own times in the great Elizabethan's style which sold well. On a subsequent vacation, this time camping in West Virginia, Bob Myers's mind wandered to the story of Frankenstein. Earlier, he had watched his son reading the last of the Frankenstein books, the one where the monster drifted off on an ice floe in the Arctic. In the glow of his campfire, publisher Myers began to scribble again. This time the result was "The Cross of Frankenstein," soon to be published by Lippincott, which brings the monster to the New World in suitably Gothic style. In the meantime, Myers found himself acting as spokesman for the small magazines on

postal matters. He became acutely aware of the problems of the Postal Service which were leading to higher and higher postal rates. His researches provided the basis for another book, "The Coming Collapse of the Post Office," to be published by Prentice-Hall in July.

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